

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF DELTA
Public Meeting Room A
Delta Township Administration Building
7710 West Saginaw Highway
Lansing MI 48917

**TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FOR
MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2014**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Fletcher called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. OPENING CEREMONIES – Pledge of Allegiance

III. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Trustee Jeff Hicks, Trustee Dennis Fedewa, Trustee Karne Mojica, Treasurer Howard Pizzo, Clerk Mary R. Clark, and Supervisor Kenneth Fletcher.

Members Absent: Trustee R. Douglas Kosinski

Others Present: Manager Richard Watkins, Community Development Director Mark Graham, Lieutenant Jeff Campbell, Fire Chief John Clark. Assistant Fire Chief Mike Roman, Eaton County Commissioners Blake Mulder, Jane Whitacre, Howard Spence, Jim Osieczonek, Roger Eakin, Eaton County Road Commissioner Blair Ballou

TRUSTEE HICKS MOVED TO EXCUSE TRUSTEE R. DOUGLAS KOSINSKI.

TREASURER PIZZO SUPPORTED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED 6-0.

IV. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

Delta Township resident Darnell Early who served on the Board of Water and Light Community Review Team stated that his committee has completed their review as have both the Board of Water and Light (BWL) and the Michigan Public Service Commission.

Mr. Early gave an overview of the findings of the various reports and stated that it was now in the hands of each elected and appointed official to ensure implementation and monitoring of the improvements. In addition, Mr. Early stated that it is in the hands of the municipalities surrounding the City of Lansing without current representation on the BWL Board to ensure they have representation on the BWL Board. Supervisor Fletcher stated conversations are ongoing between the Township and BWL to ensure representation from the Township on their Board.

Trustee Fedewa asked if Mr. Early's committee reviewed the transference of funds to the City of Lansing from the Board of Water and Light's revenue stream. Mr. Early stated the subject was not a specific charge of the review committee; however it was a discussion point as part of the larger discussion of the need for better representation. Trustee Fedewa stated he is concerned that the residents of Delta Township are contributing to the operating cost of the City of Lansing through the Board of Water and Light's revenue stream and believes that some transparency in that regard would serve the Township residents well.

Trustee Fedewa stated that one comment made by a spokesperson in the report that the current BWL culture would be prohibitive to them transcending into something different than they already are. Trustee Fedewa, with that comment in mind, asked Mr. Early if he believed that just the pressure of the political leaders of the communities involved was adequate pressure to change that culture, or whether it required other large opinion makers in the general area as well. Mr. Early stated that the beginning point would be with municipal representation and further indicated he is confident that the issues are manageable with prioritization and accountability.

Supervisor Fletcher recognized that Blake Mulder, Chair of the Eaton County Board of Commissioners, Commissioner Roger Eakin, Commissioner Jim Osieczonek, Commissioner Jane Whitacre, and Commissioner Howard Spence were present this evening and would be participating in a discussion later in the meeting regarding the proposed Eaton County road millage.

V. SET/ADJUST AGENDA

TRUSTEE HICKS MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

TREASURER MOJICA SUPPORTED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED 6-0.

VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS – NONE.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS – NONE.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON AGENDA *(maximum two minutes)* - NONE.

IX. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES – NONE.

X. PASSAGE OF ORDINANCES – NONE.

XI. CONSENT AGENDA –

Trustee Hicks requested the May 19, 2014 Regular Board Meeting Minutes be pulled for corrections and additions.

TREASURER PIZZO MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS AMENDED.

TRUSTEE MOJICA SUPPORTED THE MOTION.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: TREASURER HOWARD PIZZO, TRUSTEE KAREN MOJICA, TRUSTEE JEFF HICKS, TRUSTEE DENNIS FEDEWA, CLERK MARY R. CLARK, AND SUPERVISOR FLETCHER.

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: TRUSTEE R. DOUGLAS KOSINSKI

THE MOTION PASSED 6-0.

1. Bills and Financial Transactions	\$850,666.78
Bond/Debt Payments	
Investments	
Payroll & Related	322,634.13
Refunds	987.27
Tax Distributions	
Vendor Claims	527,045.38
Total	\$ 850,666.78

TREASURER PIZZO MOVED TO APPROVE THE BILLS AND FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$850,666.78.

TRUSTEE MOJICA SUPPORTED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED 6-0.

XII. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION

2. Minutes - May 19. 2014 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Trustee Hicks stated that he believes that it is important to identify who is asking questions

and commenting. That it is incumbent upon each Board Member to wait to be recognized which will in turn allow comments and questions to be attributed correctly within the content of the minutes.

Treasurer Pizzo stated that the absence of paraphrasing and or direct attribution to the speaker can lead to a need by a Board member to make corrections.

Supervisor Fletcher stated that he will make more of an effort to identify speakers and believes, especially in the Committee of the Whole meetings, that the flow of conversation can sometimes prohibit identifying speakers. During Regular Board meetings it is where everyone needs to make a better effort of formally being recognized before speaking. Trustee Hicks agreed.

TRUSTEE HICKS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MAY 19, 2014 REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED.

TREASURER PIZZO SUPPORTED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED 6-0.

Clerk Clark asked for clarification, in relation to the Regular Board minutes, whether the Board wants comments attributed and if there is no recognition of whose speaking, then those comments wouldn't be included. Supervisor Fletcher stated he believes that speakers should continue to be identified. Trustee Hicks stated that he believes a balance between recording everything and no attribution of comments can be made.

XIII. ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA UNDER SECTION V. SET/ADJUST AGENDA

XIV. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

3. Final Consideration of Bryan Special Land Use Permit Request

The Community Development Department recommends that the Township Board approve the request for a Special Land Use Permit for a truck repair facility on the property described in Case No. 5-14-5.

TREASURER PIZZO MOVED THAT THE DELTA TOWNSHIP BOARD APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR A SPECIAL LAND USE PERMIT FOR TRUCK REPAIR FACILITY ON THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN CASE NO. 5-14-5 FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

1. THE REQUEST IS CONSISTENT WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE DELTA TOWNSHIP COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND THE ZONING ORDINANCE.

2. THE REQUEST CAN BE OPERATED SUCH THAT IT IS COMPATIBLE WITH SURROUNDING LAND USES.

THE SPECIAL LAND USE PERMIT IS RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING STIPULATIONS:

1. THE PARKING LOT MUST BE STRIPED TO ACCOMMODATE 4 PARKING SPACES FOR THE 4 EMPLOYEES, INCLUDING 1 VAN- ACCESSIBLE HANDICAP SPACE.
2. FAILURE OF THE APPLICANT TO COMPLY WITH ANY OF THE PROVISIONS REQUIRED BY THE ZONING ORDINANCE, OR ANY STIPULATIONS REQUIRED BY THE DELTA TOWNSHIP BOARD, SHALL CONSTITUTE GROUNDS FOR TERMINATION OF THIS PERMIT BY THE TOWNSHIP BOARD.

TRUSTEE MOJICA SUPPORTED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED 6-0.

XV. MANAGER'S REPORT – NONE.

XVI. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

4. Proposed Eaton County Road Millage

Supervisor Fletcher stated that the Township Board has information brought by Eaton County Commissioner Eakin that explains the numbers of the 1.5 millage proposal over 12 years and the intention is to bring all roads up to good condition. Supervisor Fletcher stated that over 90% of the Township roads would be improved under the millage.

Commissioner Eakin gave an overview of the proposed use of the millage. Supervisor Fletcher asked whether any part of the proposed millage covered snow removal and Commissioner Eakin stated no.

Clerk Clark asked if the millage were to pass, whether it was sufficient as a standalone to do the repair outlined, or if it required the 25% match from MDOT in order to accomplish the repairs in the 12 year plan, or is that 25% then money that could be used for snow plowing, additional equipment etc. Commissioner Eakin stated the funds raised by the millage are what are necessary to repair the roads.

Trustee Hicks asked whether the chart provided meant that Delta Township residents would put in almost \$23 million and get a little over \$13 million in repair costs. Mr. Ballou stated that was correct and the reason being is that there are multiple primary roads in Delta Township that contain a tax base such a commercial and some residential that will

be paying into the tax and not utilizing the funds raised.

Trustee Fedewa asked when it was anticipated to be on the ballot and it was said November 2014.

Commissioner Howard Spence stated that while the Township will be a donor to the program so to speak, it would reap the secondary benefit of roads outside of the Township being fixed.

Supervisor Fletcher stated that there are other areas in transportation such as public transportation that need to be looked at as well as how receptive residents would be to voting for this millage and then voting for a millage to fund public transportation – as well as the benefits of Delta Township approving its own 1.5 millage and funding both for the same dollar amount.

Trustee Hicks stated that it is unknown what the Legislature may do in the future and that the road repair millage is on a 12 year cycle and is likely that the millage once passed, will never go away. Trustee Hicks further stated Delta Township roads get more use by the virtue of being more urban township.

Discussion ensued about the issue of possible competing millages (schools, public transportation) and that it is really a Michigan issue and there should be more pressure on the legislature.

Supervisor Fletcher voiced skepticism that the Legislature would do anything related to the roads and believes it is up to the local officials to handle it. The residents may balk at the timing, thinking that the State might be planning to do something with the roads and vote down a millage proposal. Further stating that he believes the discussion really comes down to whether the best way to address the repairs is through the county or locally within the Township.

Treasurer Pizzo asked how the Township would be assured that they would receive its fair share of the millage. That essentially the same relates to his difficulty explaining the rationale to his neighbors regarding snow removal – however there doesn't seem to be a concrete formula that he is aware of.

Trustee Fedewa understands the need for distribution of resources to communities that do not have the tax base for these types of improvements – however the disparity in numbers are quite large even given that argument. He believes this millage will require a lot of education and compared the recent Grand Ledge Schools millage which was about kids and not roads, failed. Answers to the tough questions need to be available.

Trustee Hicks mentioned that when calls come into the Township about roads, they are referred to the Road Commission. However the residents look to us because they elected us. Clerk Clark clarified with Commissioner Ballou that contract snow removal

was at the payment and direction of the ECRC and a portion of the county who has decided to contract out for the services. Commissioner Ballou confirmed.

Clerk Clark noted the timing of the millage being on the November ballot was of concern due to at least four other state-wide ballot initiatives and the ECRC millage would be at the bottom of those on the ballot. Historically, anything placed at the bottom of the ballot – in this case page 2 and possibly 3, frequently do not get the votes that partisan races get because of placement on the ballot. Clerk Clark stated she didn't believe the ballot placement problem would dissipate due to the growing belief on behalf of municipalities that they need to address issues themselves due to a lack of action or inaction.

Clerk Clark notes that in conversations with others, people believe that the problem will not be adequately addressed by the Legislature and want a different option. In regard to the county millage, Clerk Clark stated that when comparing the cost of fuel and parking from communities such as Charlotte and Eaton Rapids, the cost of a millage, if it were to be a total transportation millage (including public transportation, roads and snow removal) would make the millage proposal look more appealing. Clerk Clark asked if there were discussions at the county level to make the millage a broader fix for more than road construction and reconstruction. Commissioner Eakin replied no.

Clerk Clark asked Fire Chief Clark whether current road conditions were affecting the speed and or wear and tear of the Township's expensive equipment inventory. Fire Chief Clark stated that speed wasn't as much a factor, however maintenance costs are affected.

Supervisor Fletcher thanked Commissioner Whitacre for suggesting the meeting and Commissioner Whitacre asked whether the Township has reviewed the more detailed mapping of the roads, outlining which roads. Supervisor Fletcher confirmed that it has been received. In relation to that map, Supervisor Fletcher noted that a road listed as poor, in his opinion was actually fair at worst. Further, he wondered how the voter might translate that into whether the proposal was a fair or needed one. Commissioner Whitacre stated there is logic to all of the assigned road conditions and that it requires public education.

Treasurer Pizzo stated that if a road is brought up to a condition of good, that condition can be maintained as good if a sealing process is used every two years and asked if this was part of the funding to include the sealing every two years. Commissioner Ballou stated that only the work necessary to raise the condition of the road up to good is included, not maintenance of that condition.

Supervisor Fletcher stated that he believes that this millage would be a very tough sell in Delta Township in part because the Township has been looking to EATRAN to expand its services and EATRAN has not done that. That he has heard others say that Delta Township, in regard to public transportation, Delta Township is looking to the out county to subsidize the public transportation yet, when looking at the road millage proposal,

notes that Delta Township is subsidizing the out county area by around \$10 million – in part due to the taxation on commercial businesses and residential areas on primary roads which are not receiving any benefit from the millage. These are also some of the same business and residences the Township is looking to have extended public service to.

5. Update on Township Manager Search Process

Supervisor Fletcher noted that the following dates are not final; however he met last week with the MML's lead executive recruiter, Kathy Grinzinger, who has been assigned to the Township Manager search.

The next Committee of the Whole meeting will be dedicated to meeting with Ms. Grinzinger who will facilitate a dialogue to determine what the Township is looking for in a Manager. Supervisor Fletcher also stated the meeting would be used to help define what will be included in the job posting, the materials promoting the Township in relation to the search, as well as evaluating the applicants.

Supervisor Fletcher stated that Ms. Grinzinger will meet with Department Directors earlier in the same day in small groups to ensure a comprehensive process.

Supervisor Fletcher stated that Ms. Grinzinger would then use the findings from those meetings to develop a first draft of materials with an anticipated date of June 26, 2014. The goal is to have all revisions made prior to the preferred posting date of July 7, 2014 and the posting would remain active through August 1, 2014.

Supervisor Fletcher stated that Ms. Grinzinger would remain involved at the close of the job posting to catalogue the applicants into a matrix as defined by the Department heads and Township Board to determine the top candidates. Ms. Grinzinger will make some preliminary contacts with candidates, such as an out of state applicant, to determine their motive for moving to Michigan, but will not be interviewing candidates.

Supervisor Fletcher stated that Ms. Grinzinger will narrow the candidates to five and bring those recommendations for the interview process back to the Board for discussion/presentation, ideally at the Regular Board meeting on August 18th, 2014. Supervisor Fletcher stated the Board will then need to determine the interview schedule and stated that the Board could hold a special, all day, Township Board meeting August 22, or the Board could hold interviews August 25, 2014. Supervisor Fletcher reiterated that the dates are contingent on prior anticipated dates; however the Board should keep them in mind.

Supervisor Fletcher stated, assuming the interviews were concluded on August 25, 2014, if the candidate was determined, the rest of that week could be used to handle additional processes such as criminal background checks and vetting their identity and credentials.

Supervisor Fletcher stated if the timeline worked as above, a Manager could be hired by the first to mid-October.

Manager Watkins stated that one of the most important considerations to make between now and the Committee of the Whole meeting is what types of characteristics the Township is seeking like intangibles - such as attitude, demeanor. While credentials are important, they are easily sorted and verified.

Trustee Mojica asked if the MML would be providing suggested criteria that the Township should be looking for. Supervisor Fletcher stated that he could ask Ms. Grinzinger for something prior to the meeting.

Supervisor Fletcher confirmed that Trustee Mojica would not be at the Committee of the Whole Meeting and Trustee Mojica stated she was going to attempt to Skype to be able to participate in the discussion.

Trustee Fedewa stated the second brain storming session for Place Making with the MML was completed last week and the sessions were an excellent tool being timely as well. Many items discussed will be helpful with updating the zoning ordinance. Supervisor Fletcher asked if there was an end product to share and Trustee Fedewa stated that he believes there would be something. Manager Watkins stated that he would check with Mark, who presented on behalf of the MML.

XVII. PUBLIC COMMENTS – NONE.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT –

Supervisor Fletcher adjourned the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF DELTA

KENNETH FLETCHER, SUPERVISOR

MARY R. CLARK, CLERK